

Message Text

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63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01

EB-11 MC-02 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /129 W

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P 131858Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9243

SECDEF DSAA PRIORITY

SECDEF ISA PRIORITY

INFO USCINCSO QUARRY HTS CZ PRIORITY

DA WASH DC/DALO-ILS PRIORITY

USARSO FT AMADOR CZ/SCARMA-M PRIORITY

CDR AMC ALEXANDRIA VA/AMCIL-MS/4 PRIORITY

CHIEF MAAG PERU PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIMA 1985

EO 11652 GDS

TAGS: MASS/PE

SUBJECT: PERU ARMY FMS PURCHASE (U)

REF: CHMAAG PERU MSG SCPE-LOG 112215Z MAR 74 (C) (HOTAL)

1. PRIME MINISTER MERCADO ON MARCH 11 PASSED TO ME AN URGENT PERSONAL REQUEST TO INTERVENE WITH STATE/DEFENSE WITH THE PURPOSE OF ACCELERATING DELIVERY SCHEDULE OF 131 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND 24 MORTAR CARRIERS PURCHASED BY THE PERUVIAN ARMY UNDER US ARMY FMS CASE NO. DA PERU UFK.

2. SPECIFICALLY THE DELIVERY SCHEDULE REQUESTED BY GENERAL MERCADO IS AS FOLLOWS:
M113 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS - 28 DELIVERED NOV. '74, 85 DELIVERED DEC. '74 AND 18 DELIVERED JAN. '75.
M106 MORTAR CARRIERS - 5 DELIVERED NOV. '74, 10 DELIVERED DEC. '74, AND 9 DELIVERED JAN. '75.

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3. AS STATED IN MAAG MSG (REF) I STRONGLY RECOMMEND THAT US INTERESTS WOULD BE SERVED BY SOME TOKEN RESPONSE OF APPROXIMATELY 18 TO 24 VEHICLES. THE POSSIBILITY OF PRIME MINISTER MERCADO'S SUCCESSION TO THE PRESIDENCE ALWAYS EXISTS AND TO PROVIDE A WHOLLY NEGATIVE RESPONSE TO HIS MANY PLEAS WOULD NOT SERVE OUR INTERESTS.

4. BASED UPON THE ADVICE OF MAAG AS TO THE INADEQUACY OF COMMUNICATION EQUIPMENT, TRAINING AND LOGISTICAL SUPPORT THAT WILL BE AVAILABLE IN THE REQUESTED TIME, I AM FURTHER DISINCLINED TO WANT THE PERUVIAN ARMY TO HAVE A LARGE QUANTITY OF NEW US EQUIPMENT ON HAND WHICH IS NOT COMPLETELY EQUIPPED.

5. AS THE COUNTRY TEAM LOOKS FORWARD TO A MORE FAVORABLE AMBIENCE UPON THE SUCCESSION OF GEN. MERCADO BY GEN. MORALES BERMUDEZ, US LONG RANGE INTERESTS SEEM BEST SERVED BY HAVING THE LARGEST PART OF THE MILITARY EQUIPMENT COME DURING MORALES' TERM AS PRIME MINISTER AND AFTER THE PROPER LOGISTICAL AND TRAINING BASE HAS BEEN ESTABLISHED.

6. IN SUMMARY, GEN. MERCADO'S PERSONAL REQUEST TO ME DOES UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES WARRANT SOME POSITIVE RESPONSE. HOWEVER, LONGER RANGE INTERESTS ARE BEST SERVED BY SUCH RESPONSE BEING LIMITED TO THE DELIVERY OF UP TO TWENTY-FOUR M113 ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS.
BELCHER

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